

Message Text

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51

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-01 DLOS-03

SWF-01 L-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 FRB-01 OMB-01 TAR-01

SP-02 AGR-05 AID-05 IO-10 LAB-04 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-01

TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /091 W

----- 049577

R 021145Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1921

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, CE

SUBJ: SRI LANKA SHIPPING: CARGO MOVING

REF: A) STATE 263341 B) 262153 C) COLOMBO 3299

1. HUBERT DE SILVA AND CENTRAL FREIGHT BUREAU (CFB) MANAGER CALLED EMBOFF DEC 2 AND CONFIRMED REF A AND B INFORMATION THAT CONFLICT AT LEAST TEMPORARILY RESOLVED. DURING DEC 2, 3, 4 WATERMAN'S SAM HOUSTON, AEL EXPORT ADVENTURER AND HOEGH ORCHID WILL LIFT ALL 5600 TONS CUSAC FREIGHT NOW ACCUMULATED. DEC 2 CEYLON DAILY NEWS HAS SHORT ARTICLE SAYING CARGO WILL MOVE AND THAT CFB HAS ASKED CUSAC TO ABIDE BY FMC RULING ON SURCHARGE.

2. REF B WAS RECEIVED ONLY ON DEC 2.
WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN OVER TONE OF NOV 27/28 EXCHANGE AND ARE PLEASED MATTER HAS WORKED OUT.

3. INPRELIMINARY RESPONSE PARA 5 REF A,
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ACCORDING SURCES MENTIONED PARA 1 ABOVE, MAIN

REASON FOR CFB CONCESSION AND ACCEPTANCE WAS ECONOMIC.
PRESENT AND POTENTIAL TRADE LOSSES TO SRI LANKA EXCEED
SIGNIFICANCE OF OTHER FACTORS INVOLVED: SMALL FOREIGN
EXCHANGE LOSSES DUE SURCHARGE:
PRINCIPLE OF CFB AUTHORITY OVER SRI LANKA
SHIPPING; PERSONALITY CONFLICTS; AND ANY
POLITICAL BIAS. ALTHOUGH
SURCHARGE IS MAIN PROBLEM, WE BELIEVE ANOTHER IMPORTANT FACTOR
WAS EARLIER LACK OF COURTESY NOW ADOPTED IN CUSAC/CFB
EXCHANGES. ALTHOUGH MUCH
CREDIT IS DUE MR DE SILVA FOR THIS IMPROVEMENT, WE
BELIEVE DEPT/EMBASSY ROLE HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT.
WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EXTENT OF AMB
KANAKARATNE'S INVOLVEMENT SINCE HE MAY RAISE ISSUE WITH
EMBASSY OFFICIALSWHEN HE RETURNS FOR HOME LEAVE.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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